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EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Svoboda Reported Improving

The two most recent medical reports on President Svoboda's health have indicated an improvement in his condition. On May 27, Prague radio said his condition had "slightly improved," but it remained "serious." On May 30, Czechoslovak media announced that his improvement "is continuing," but failed to characterize Svoboda's condition. He is not, however, expected to recover.

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BULGARIA

Visit of Italian Foreign Minister

Italian foreign minister Moro mainly discussed economic and trade relations during his May 26-28 visit to Sofia. The two foreign ministers signed a ten-year agreement on economic and industrial cooperation--details not available--a consular agreement, and agreements on air-transport and agriculture and plant physiology.

A fairly bland communique stated that the two exchanged views on international issues, but the Italian representative to NATO subsequently offered his government's summation of the results of the trip. He claimed that the Bulgarians were skeptical that the European Security Talks (CSCE) would be concluded by this summer and that they recognized that the Soviets were impeding progress. They also privately claimed to be more open than the Soviets on basket three measures, particularly those involving tourism. They additionally remarked that progress at the force reduction talks would have to wait until the third stage of CSCE.

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